

Waste Management Project

Expectation:

Safely treat, store and dispose of solid wastes and liquid effluents, and provide analytical, generator, environmental, transportation and packaging, and waste-minimization services.

Status Update:

- Received National Environmental Policy Act approval to transfer mixed low-level waste to an offsite thermal treatment facility. The facility, to be operated by the Allied Technology Group, is to start treatment in December 2000.
- Continued preparations for obtaining certification to ship transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico this fall. In addition to passing audits by DOE's Carlsbad Area Office, we'll need final Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission approvals.



At Hanford's 1999 Safety Expo, area fire captains and the public learned about the shipping container designed to safely transport transuranic waste to the underground repository in New Mexico.

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Status Update (continued):

- We've far exceeded our pollution prevention goals this fiscal year. We earned a "Closing the Circle" award from the White House for our new program to purchase recycled products and DOE's National Pollution Prevention Award for our outreach into the community with pollution prevention information.
- Engineered more than 20 shipments of high-level waste samples to the Savannah River Site and United Kingdom to support the Office of River Protection privatized tank waste treatment contract.



Hanford saved taxpayers \$90,000 in one three-month period this year by purchasing remanufactured toner cartridges.

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Future Focus Areas:

- Achieve certification to ship TRU waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.
- Characterize sludge samples from Tank 361, located at the Plutonium Finishing Plant.
- Complete a 242-A Evaporator campaign of about 1 million gallons for the River Protection Project this fiscal year.
- Complete secondary containment upgrades at T Plant and the 222-S Lab needed to make waste streams compliant with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Ship 560 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste for non-thermal treatment to the local Allied Technology Group facility. Much of this legacy waste has been in storage on site since 1987 awaiting final disposition.



Nuclear chemical operators stage metal boxes of mixed low-level waste at the Central Waste Complex for shipment offsite for treatment. The treated waste will be returned to the site for disposal. This summer, the National Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Records of Decision will be issued. These will define Hanford's future waste treatment and disposal role in the DOE Complex.